

3. A Credit Card Payment Form including the amount of \$750.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

4. **Cancel claims 2-13 before calculating the Filing Fee.**

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

6. Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line:

--This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 10/318,114, filed December 13, 2002; which is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 10/126,576, filed April 22, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,529,348; which is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 09/523,383, filed March 10, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,404,594.--.

7. New formal drawings are enclosed, seven (7) sheets, Figs. 1-10. The drawings include corrections approved in the prior application.

8. The power of attorney is set forth in the Declaration in the prior application or an associate power of attorney is hereby granted to:

Jeffrey M. Ketchum, Registration No. 31,174
Shrinath Malur, Registration No. 34,663
John R. Mattingly, Registration No. 30,293
Daniel J. Stanger, Registration No. 32,846
Gene W. Stockman, Registration No. 21,021.

There is no change in the correspondence address.

Address all future correspondence to:

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120.

Please associate this application with Customer No. 24956.

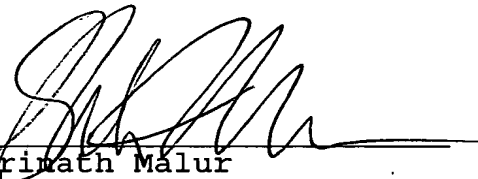
9. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi, Ltd.

10. Priority of the following Japanese patent application
is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

No. 11-066016, filed March 12, 1999.

The certified priority document has been filed in a prior
application.

The undersigned hereby declares that no matter contained in
the specification, including the claims, and drawings filed in
the present continuation application would have been new matter
in the prior application Serial No. 10/318,114, as originally
filed on December 13, 2002.


Shrinath Malur
Registration No. 34,663
Attorney of Record

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Date: July 23, 2003